

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 PM-07 DRC-01 RSC-01 SPC-03

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /075 W

----- 037987

R 051235Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5650

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTEVIDEO 3550

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, MCAP, UY

SUBJ: PURCHASE BY URUGUAY OF EXCESS RAILROAD EQUIPMENT

REF: (A) USMILGP MESSAGE 041455Z DEC 73; B) STATE 230024

C) MONTEVIDEO 3451

FOR ORTIZ, ARA/APU, FROM AMBASSADOR

1. REF (A) FROM COMMANDER USMILGP SENT TO DEPARTMENT FOR INFORMATION REPORTS FORTHCOMING TRIP BEGINNING DECEMBER 10 BY URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS OF ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL RAILWAYS (AFE) TO INSPECT EXCESS RAIL EQUIPMENT AT CHARLESTON ARMY DEPOT. TRIP REPRESENTS CULMINATION, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE, OF PROCESS BEGUN IN MAY 1973 WHEN AFE ASKED MILGROUP'S ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING AND OBTAINING SUCH EXCESS EQUIPMENT COMPOSED OF ROLLING STOCK, ENGINES AND CRANE.

2. IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL RAILWAY SYSTEM REPRESENTS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT OF HIGH NATIONAL PRIORITY AND WAS DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL LEADERS HELD AT LA NIRVANA IN OCTOBER. WE HAVE ASSURANCES THAT AFE HAS EARMARKED FUNDS FOR PURCHASE, AND UNDERSTAND THAT INSPECTION TEAM EMPOWERED PRESENT LETTER OF INTENT OF MINIMUM.

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3. TRIP HAS AROUSED SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST HERE AND POSSIBLE

PURCHASE FROM U.S. BILLED PROMINENTLY IN PRESS. IN ADDITION,
PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH AFE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
INDICATE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO POSSIBLE PURCHASE, PAR-
TICULARLY IN LIGHT OF FAVORABLE TERMS INVOLVED.

4. SINCE AFE AND GOVERNMENT APPEAR DETERMINED TO MODERNIZE
RAILROAD AND PUT IT ON SOUND ECONOMIC FOOTING, I BELIEVE
IT IS CLEARLY IN OUR INTERESTS TO CONSUMMATE THE PURCHASE
ASSUMING QUANTITIES, TYPES AND CONDITION MEET URUGUAYAN
REQUIREMENTS. FUNDS SAVED THROUGH PURCHASE COULD BE RE-
DIRECTED TO UPGRADING ROAD BED AND SYSTEM IN GENERAL.
THIS IS A CLEAR OPPORTUNITY TO MEET A NATIONAL
REQUIREMENT AT NO COST TO US. I URGE THAT YOU LEND YOUR
SUPPORT AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE EQUIPMENT REMAINS
RESERVED FOR URUGUAY UNTIL A FINAL DECISION IS MADE. WE DO NOT
WISH ANOTHER EXPERIENCE LIKE THAT OF SURPLUS HOSPITALS.
SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROCUREMENT, RAILROADS, ROLLING STOCK
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Release Event: n/a
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TAGS: ETRN, MCAP, MILI, UY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005